

REMARKS

Before making the amendments included herein, claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-21 were pending in the present application and stood rejected. Claims 6 and 16 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,847,542 to Clark. Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,161,005 to Pinzon. In this response, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 8-12, and 19-21 and cancelled claims 3, 6, 13, and 15. Consequently, claims 1-2, 4, 7-12, 14, and 17-21 are presently at issue. The rejections as they may apply to the claims presented herein are traversed for the reasons stated below.

As amended, claim 1 recites an entry control system for permitting authorized users to access a controlled area by moving a barrier. The system includes a close button and the close button produces a close signal whenever the close button is actuated by a user. The system also includes an entry request device for accepting a user authorization code. A controller is operably coupled to the entry request device and the close button and has an output. The controller receives and authenticates the user authorization code. The receipt of a close signal from the close button automatically causes the controller to issue a close barrier signal at the output in order to close the barrier *without the need to authenticate any user authorization code*.

In contrast, the Clarke reference describes a system where switches 115 and 117 are actuated and, when actuated, produce an RF signal. Clarke, col. 3, lines 25-38. A transmitter 111 sends the signal (including a house code 113) to a receiver 122, which receives the signal. *Id.* The receiver 122 recognizes and will process the signal only if the signal contains the proper house code (i.e., the house code 113). Clarke, col. 4, lines 19-30. If the house code is recognized, the signal may be used to move a door. *Id.*

However, the Clarke reference does not first enable a controller and then wait to receive a close signal from a close button that closes a barrier without the need to authenticate additional user codes as is recited in claim 1. To the contrary, in the Clarke system, a single signal is received by the receiver 122 and it is this signal that also activates the door. The single signal does not activate the receiver 122 for all future actuations of the switches 115 or 117. In fact, *the receiver 122 must be re-actuated each and every time for each received signal* and the signal *must also include the*

correct code if the door is to be successfully moved.

As for the Pinzon reference, a system is described for remotely locking and unlocking doors. See Pinzon, Abstract. Pinzon does not describe the use of a password or code much less enabling a controller to receive signals from a close button in order to actuate a barrier as recited in claim 1.

Since the above-mentioned references do not teach or suggest a close button that is used to close a barrier without the need to authenticate a user authorization code, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the proposed combination. Amended independent claim 11 has recitations similar to claim 1 and it is submitted that this claim is allowable for the same reasons as given above with respect to claim 1. The remaining claims 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 14, and 17-21 depend directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 11. Since claims 1 and 11 are allowable, it is submitted that these remaining dependent claims are also allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.


Respectfully requested,

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